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LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 April 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning acts of aggression carried out against Iraq by United States and United Kingdom aircraft taking off from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace on 2 April 1999. The letter requests that you intervene immediately and effectively to bring a halt to these oppressive actions, which constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 4 April 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that in two separate incidents over southern Iraq on 2 April 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace, as described below:

1. At 0900 hours on Friday, 2 April 1999, 13 hostile formations violated Iraq's airspace. American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes participated in these cowardly formations, which flew eight sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 33 from Saudi airspace, supported by an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft and an E-2C operating from Saudi airspace. These hostile formations overflew the areas of Salman, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Qurnah and bombed residential areas in the Afak area of the Qadisiyah Governorate, destroying two residential buildings and injuring two innocent civilians. Our interceptors and brave missile force engaged these formations, driving them back at 1035 hours to the evil bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from which they had taken off.

2. At 1700 hours on the same day, Friday, 2 April 1999, the cowardly formations again violated Iraq's airspace, having taken off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A total of twelve formations, including American F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s and British Tornadoes flew 21 sorties from Saudi airspace and 4 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace, with the support of one AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace. These hostile formations overflew Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basra and Amarah. Our interceptors and ground-based defences launched a counter-attack against the hostile aircraft, driving them back at 1840 hours to the bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from which they had taken off.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the United States of America and the United Kingdom fully responsible for these acts of aggression and the material damage and loss of human life arising therefrom, and requests that you intervene immediately and effectively to bring a halt to these oppressive actions, which constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. I should also like to draw your attention to the gravity of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's involvement in American and British acts of aggression against Iraq. In this regard, I should like to point out that in March 1999 the League of Arab States adopted resolution No. 5837 calling for the cessation of all actions perpetrated against Iraq outside the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions, meaning an end to the forcible imposition of the aerial exclusion zones. By continuing their arrogant and reckless aerial attacks and acts of aggression against Iraq, the United States of America and the United Kingdom demonstrate contempt for all Arab States that are party to that resolution. We further affirm the Government of Iraq's inalienable right, in accordance with international law, to defend itself, to safeguard the sovereignty and security of Iraq and, in accordance with the norms of international liability, to seek compensation from these

States for all the material, spiritual and human losses which it has suffered and continues to suffer as a result of these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq